



# JULIE LASSA

## STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 445 Testimony  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education  
Room 201 SE  
2:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Vinehout and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 445, which I drafted along with my colleagues Representative Molepske, Senator Fitzgerald, and Representative Albers at the request of members of the Wisconsin Drain Board Association.

As part of their standard duties and responsibilities, drainage district boards are called upon to regularly inspect main drains subject to their jurisdiction, to approve bids and contracts as to dredging and drainage district assessments. Under current law, the board may enter into contracts to have work done in the drainage district. Each board is required to advertise for bids by publishing a class 2 notice if the work to be done will cost in excess of \$10,000.

We have heard from drainage district board members throughout Wisconsin that the current threshold of \$10,000 is far too low to be practical, as the expenses to maintain a drain have increased significantly throughout recent history. With the increase of costs that has occurred over the last fourteen years since the last time these laws were modified, this \$10,000 requirement has become an ineffective minimum amount.

Under Senate Bill 445, the minimum contract amount at which a drainage board is required to advertise a bid by publishing a class 2 notice is increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000, providing boards and drain districts greater flexibility in carrying out their statutory functions. It is a simple change, but one that we are told is badly needed and that, we hope, you will support.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have.